

TENNIS TIMES

A publication for members of the Bloomington Womens' Summer Tennis League Program

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Mark your calendar:

- ✓ May 20, Deadline to register for singles and doubles
- ✓ May 21, Tennis and pot luck luncheon, Valley View
- ✓ June 1, Advanced doubles play begins, Valley View
- ✓ June 2, Recreational doubles play begins, Valley View
- ✓ June 2, Intermediate doubles play begins, Jefferson HS
- ✓ July 6-7, No doubles tennis matches during holiday week
- ✓ Sept 10, Fall mixer and awards, Valley View

Bloomington Womens' tennis program turns 43

The year: 1973. Tennis for women had just come of age. A new breed of players, the likes of Billie Jean King and Chris Evert, proved that women could compete successfully on a professional level. In early-1973, Bobby Riggs, one of the leading mens' professional players opined that the female game of tennis was inferior to mens' tennis. He challenged 29-year-old Billie Jean King to a match. On Sept. 20, in Houston, King outplayed Riggs in three sets, 6-4, 6-3 and 6-3. Her victory advanced the sport of tennis for women, both on a local and professional level.

Bloomington-area female tennis enthusiasts form new league

That same year, a group of Bloomington-area women wanted to establish a summer tennis league; an opportunity for women living in Bloomington and nearby suburbs to come together for exercise and camaraderie. They launched the Bloomington's first womens' league.

Celebrate 43 years of Bloomington tennis at spring mixer

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 21, 9-noon at Valley View courts, 9000 Portland Avenue South**. Bring your tennis racquet and a dish to share at the potluck. Beverages, plates, napkins and eating utensils will be provided. RSVP and/or questions to Kathleen Ireland, 952-484-2656.

Deadline approaching for registration

Register by May 20 to participate in singles and/or doubles play. Singles play will cost \$20 for the season, while doubles leagues will cost \$42 per person or \$84 per team. You will not be rostered for doubles until both players register.

Volunteers desperately needed

This league exists because of the dedicated members who keep it going. Please contact any of the officers listed on the last page to volunteer your time and talent.

What's my ranking?

Bloomington doubles team ratings.

Advanced: 3.5-4.0 USTA ratings. Total for team should range between 7.0-8.0.

Intermediate: 3.0-3.5 USTA ratings. Total for team should range between 6.0-7.0.

Beginner: 2.0-3.0 USTA ratings. Total for team should range between 5.0-6.0

Tennis should be fun. You will get the greatest enjoyment by playing competitors who will challenge you.

If you've played on a United States Tennis Association (USTA) women's league or a sanctioned tournament, you've likely heard about the National Tennis Professional Rating Program, also known as NTPR.

The rating is used to determine the levels of competition. The rating is strictly a guide. You may play above or below the numerical rating. By selecting the right rating level, you should get challenged, but also enjoy some success on the court.

Bloomington women's tennis uses the NTRP system in doubles team play.

On a doubles team, simply add up the NTRP level of each member of the team, the total determines which team best suits you (see chart in left column). These NTRP guidelines should help you choose the right team.

NTRP Level 2.5: This player can sustain a rally of slow pace with other players of similar ability and is beginning to develop strokes. This player is becoming more familiar with basic positions for singles and doubles.

NTRP Level 3.0: This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium-paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks execution when trying directional control, depth and pace or altering distance of shots.

NTRP Level 3.5: This player has achieved improved stroke dependability and directional control at moderate shots, but still lacks depth, variety and ability to alter distance on shots. The effective use of lobs, overheads, approach

shots, and volleys is limited due to lack of confidence. This player is more comfortable at the net, has improved court awareness, and is developing teamwork in doubles.

NTRP Level 4.0: This player has dependable strokes, including directional control and the ability to alter distance of shots on both forehand and backhand sides during moderately paced play, plus the ability to lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with more success.

NTRP Level 4.5: This player has begun to vary the use of pace and spins, has good movement, can control distance and depth of shots, and is beginning to develop game plans according to strengths and weaknesses. This player can hit the first serve with power and accuracy and can place the second serve.

Play by the rules

Ever run into a situation on the tennis court that you couldn't figure out how to handle?

Perhaps it was a tennis ball that hit the top of the net and then rolled over onto the court? Or, maybe you noticed a tennis ball bounced twice on your racquet strings before it crossed over the net to your opponent's side.

Maybe you wondered, how would a chair judge rule?

Wonder no more. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) has recently updated its rule book *Friend at Court Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*.

The 208-page handbook covers almost anything and everything that can and does happen on a tennis court.

To download a copy of the handbook go to:
assets.usta.com/assets/1/15/2014FAC_final.2.pdf

One of the most important takeaways from the rule book is: "Courtesy is expected. Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy. Points played in good faith are counted. All points played in good faith stand."

So what does that mean?

The book provides an example: "If after losing a point, a player discovers the net was four inches too high the point stands."

Bloomington league players might not measure net height, but that example helps players understand the idea of "points played in good faith."

Another more relevant example from the book goes like this: "If a point is played from the wrong court, there is no replay. If during a point, a player realizes that a mistake was made at the beginning (for example, service from the wrong court), the player shall continue playing the point. Corrective action may be taken only after the point is played."

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